

The Story of Miss Joella

*A Brief Account of the Good Work
of a Country Sunday School Superin-
tendent of Hobucken, North Carolina*



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AN ACCOUNT OF A ONE-ROOM COUNTRY SUNDAY
SCHOOL AND ITS SUPERINTENDENT.

BY M. W. BRIDHAM.

PURHANS if the traveling salesman were asked to name the most out-of-the-way place on his schedule and yet one which he anticipates with much real pleasure because of the storekeeping customer whom he meets there, he would name the country community known as Hobucken, on Goose Creek Island. This is down in Pamlico County, in the eastern section of North Carolina,



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The customer is a young woman, who seems to be the ruling and reigning spirit of progress in the entire community. Her name is Miss Joella Mayo. For five or six years she taught school in a neighboring village, but she gave that up five years ago. According to her own story, she felt the pull of her own people so strongly upon her that each Sunday morning the faces of the children in Hobucken would rise up before her and beckon her to come back and help them. Finally she yielded to this impression, which she believes was a call from God to minister to the people among whom she had lived. So she went back, and she is "on the job" every day.

Miss Joella is a merchant. Shall we say the merchant princess of Hobucken? She is also superintendent of the Sunday school. Uncle Sam has her as his representative, so she is the post-

mistress. The public schools realize her ability and interest and have tried to get her to serve as one of the school commissioners, but for sufficient reason she has thus far declined the position. She is President of the Epworth League. And, in addition to her other duties, she finds time to be the mainstay of the Church, looking after the finances to a great extent for the board of stewards.

But it is about her Sunday school that I wish to write particularly at this time.

The school meets in a one-room building. To see the equipment there is enough to make some of the larger schools feel ashamed. I counted no less than a dozen good things which indicated a progressive spirit. Among these were missionary wall charts, record books for each class, a Standard of Efficiency chart, a carefully selected library of forty books for boys and girls, United States flags for decorative purposes, a well-kept



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supply of Bibles and Testaments, and a good blackboard, with chalk.

The school has a regular Workers' Council, which meets monthly. In connection with this they have introduced the teacher-training class feature. A Home Department of fifteen members is maintained. A Cradle Roll hangs on the wall of the school, showing twelve names. Some of these bright baby faces are shown in one of the pictures herewith. (Cut No. 7.) In this same picture is found the superintendent, Miss Mayo. This is one of the classes of the school made up for the most part of married people.

Cut No. 6 shows a class of young men. Two have recently been chosen as teachers in the school. Miss Lydia Clayton is the teacher of this class.

Cut No. 5 shows a promising class of intermediates. The secretary of the school, Herman Pate, is indicated in this picture. Miss Lona Goodwin is the teacher of this class.

Miss Gertrude Pollard is the teacher of the junior class. (Cut No. 4.) Mrs. Sallie Styron

has charge of the primary class. (Cut No. 3.) Cut No. 7 shows the beginners' class, with a class of married people.

The illustrations show how well the school is graded. Miss Mayo is calling to her assistance some of the best workers in the entire section.

To those schools which are handicapped by lack of space in which to do their work the example of this good country school will be useful and inspiring. The school has not attempted to do everything, but it has consistently tried to do the things which seemed to be most needed. Limitations of time, money, and interest have had to be contended with here, as elsewhere, but "the world honors the stickler and never the quitter" seems to have been the spirit of these workers.

The outstanding features briefly summed up are these: Good equipment, good grading, proper recognition of special days, regular Workers' Council, Cradle Roll, Home Department, adaptation of ideas to the needs of the school and the conditions surrounding them.

When the rural worker visited this school, he



CUT NO. 6

came away with a new respect and admiration for the leadership of the country place. The school is on the Vandemere Circuit and stands out vividly in my mind as one of the brightest spots in all Southern Methodism.

We doff the hat freely and gladly to Miss Joella and her coworkers and trust that there may be many other country schools like the one at Hobucken, Goose Creek Island, North Carolina.

(The facts herein related were first gathered three years ago. Names have changed some since then, but the facts are still true.)



FIG. NO. 7

SOME HELPFUL PUBLICATIONS.

The Methodist Superintendent and His Helpers. Smith & Lamar. Twenty-five cents a year.

Homelands. Monthly publication of the Presbyterian Home Board of Missions, New York City. Twenty-five cents a year.

Rural Manhood. Published ten times a year by the Y. M. C. A. Press, New York City. \$1.50 a year.

The Christian Advocate. Nashville, Tenn. Smith & Lamar. \$2 a year.

The Progressive Farmer Weekly farm paper, Raleigh, N. C. \$1.50 a year.

Your Conference paper.

The Sunday School Magazine Smith & Lamar. Sixty cents a year in clubs.

The Elementary Teacher. Quarterly. Smith & Lamar. Fifty-five cents a year.

The Adult Student. Smith & Lamar. Fifty-six cents a year in clubs.

The Home Department Quarterly. Smith & Lamar. Thirty cents a year in clubs.

The Church School. Smith & Lamar. \$1.25 a year monthly, \$1 in clubs.

The Sunday School Journal. Methodist Book Concern, Cincinnati. 70 cents

A FEW OF MANY GOOD BOOKS.

"Big Jobs for Little Churches." Cowan. 75 cents

"How to Run a Little Sunday School." Fergusson. 75 cents.

"The Rural Church Serving the Community." Earp. \$1.

"The Country Church in the South." Masters. \$1.

"The South To-Day." Moore. \$1.

"Social Plans for Young People." Reiser. \$1.

"The Organization and Administration of the Sunday School." Cuninggim and North. 75 cents.

"Manual for Sunday School Workers' Conferences." Staebler. \$1.

"Solving the Country Church Problem." Bricker. \$1.25.

"Introduction to the Study of Rural Sociology." Vogt. \$2.75.

"Making America Safe." Goddard and MacDonell. 60 cents